

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JUNE 10, 2010

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 21, 2010

AMENDED IN SENATE MARCH 23, 2010

**SENATE BILL**

**No. 1119**

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**Introduced by Senator Wright  
(Coauthors: Senators Alquist and Negrete McLeod)**

February 17, 2010

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An act to amend Sections 1812.540, 1812.542, 1812.543, and 1812.544 of, *to amend the heading of Chapter 8 (commencing with Section 1812.540) of Title 2.91 of Part 4 of Division 3 of*, and to add ~~Section 1812.545~~ *Sections 1812.545 and 1812.546* to, the Civil Code, relating to health care.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1119, as amended, Wright. Health care staffing.

The Employment Agency, Employment Counseling, and Job Listing Services Act, the violation of which is a misdemeanor, regulates the business of employment agencies, including nurses' registries, as defined. Existing law requires an employment agency that refers temporary licensed nursing staff, as defined, to an employer who is a licensed long-term health care facility, as defined, to provide the employer with (1) written verification that the person is in good standing with the Board of Registered Nursing or Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians, as applicable, and has successfully secured a criminal record clearance, (2) the individual's professional license and registration number and date of expiration, (3) a statement that the person has had a health examination, as specified, and (4) written verification that the individual referred does not have any unresolved

allegations against him or her involving mistreatment, neglect, or abuse of a patient, as specified. Existing law also requires these agencies to adopt policies and procedures regarding prevention of resident or patient abuse by temporary staff.

This bill would impose those requirements on an employment agency that refers temporary licensed nursing staff to any health facility, as defined. ~~The bill would require an employment agency that refers licensed nursing staff for temporary employment in a health facility to be certified or accredited by the Joint Commission or an accrediting body recognized by the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.~~

Existing law requires an employer to report to the ~~board~~ *Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians* the suspension or termination for cause of any licensed vocational nurse or psychiatric technician in its employ.

This bill would require an employment agency to report to the board the suspension or termination for cause by a health facility of a licensed vocational nurse or psychiatric technician referred to the facility by the agency. The bill would also require a health facility that refuses to accept a placement of a licensed nursing staff or *a* certified nurse assistant from an employment agency to inform the agency of its reasons and of any action that may constitute grounds for reporting of the person's termination or suspension for cause. The bill would also make conforming changes.

*The bill would authorize the imposition of civil penalties of up to \$5,000 for each violation, and up to \$10,000 for each willful or knowing violation, of the bill's provisions.*

Because this bill would establish additional requirements under the act, the violation of which would be a misdemeanor, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.  
State-mandated local program: yes.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

1     *SECTION 1. The heading of Chapter 8 (commencing with*  
2     *Section 1812.540) of Title 2.91 of Part 4 of Division 3 of the Civil*  
3     *Code is amended to read:*

4  
5     CHAPTER 8. ~~LONG-TERM CARE FACILITIES~~ *HEALTH FACILITIES*  
6                     *TEMPORARY STAFFING*

7  
8     ~~SECTION 1.~~

9     *SEC. 2.* Section 1812.540 of the Civil Code is amended to read:

10    1812.540. For purposes of this chapter, the following  
11    definitions shall apply:

12    (a) “Direct care service” means the temporary assignment of  
13    certified nurse assistants to render basic care services directed at  
14    the safety, comfort, personal hygiene, or protection of a patient  
15    who is a resident of a long-term health care facility.

16    (b) “Nursing service” means the temporary assignment of a  
17    licensed registered nurse, licensed vocational nurse, or psychiatric  
18    technician to render nursing and basic care services to one or more  
19    patients at a health facility.

20    (c) “Licensed nursing staff” means a licensed registered nurse,  
21    licensed vocational nurse, or psychiatric technician.

22    (d) “Long-term health care facility” means a licensed facility,  
23    as defined in Section 1418 of the Health and Safety Code.

24    (e) “Health facility” means a licensed facility, as defined in  
25    Section 1250 of the Health and Safety Code.

26    ~~SEC. 2.~~

27    *SEC. 3.* Section 1812.542 of the Civil Code is amended to read:

28    1812.542. Every employment agency that refers temporary  
29    licensed nursing staff to an employer who is a licensed health  
30    facility shall provide the employer with all of the following:

31    (a) Written verification that the individual is in good standing  
32    with the Board of Registered Nursing or the Board of Vocational  
33    Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians, as applicable, and has  
34    successfully secured a criminal record clearance. The employment  
35    agency shall provide to the employer the individual’s professional  
36    license and registration number and date of expiration.

37    (b) A statement that the licensed nursing staff person has had a  
38    health examination within 90 days prior to employment with the

1 employment agency or seven days after employment with the  
2 employment agency and at least annually thereafter by a person  
3 lawfully authorized to perform that procedure. Each examination  
4 shall include a medical history and physical evaluation. The  
5 employment agency shall also provide verification that the  
6 individual has had tuberculosis screening within 90 days prior to  
7 employment and annually thereafter.

8 ~~SEC. 3.~~

9 *SEC. 4.* Section 1812.543 of the Civil Code is amended to read:

10 1812.543. (a) An employment agency that makes referrals of  
11 licensed nursing staff for temporary employment in a health  
12 facility, or certified nurse assistants for temporary employment in  
13 a long-term health care facility shall adopt policies and procedures  
14 regarding prevention of resident or patient abuse by temporary  
15 staff.

16 (b) The employment agency shall provide written verification  
17 to the long-term health care facility or health facility that any  
18 certified nurse assistants or licensed nursing staff, ~~respectively,~~  
19 referred by the agency do not have any unresolved allegations  
20 against them involving the mistreatment, neglect, or abuse of a  
21 patient, including injuries of unknown source and misappropriation  
22 of resident property.

23 (c) No temporary staff person referred by an employment agency  
24 may be solely responsible for a unit unless that person has received  
25 a full orientation to the facility and the applicable unit for which  
26 he or she is assigned.

27 (d) Upon the request of the State Department of ~~Health Services~~  
28 *Public Health*, an employment agency shall provide a list of  
29 temporary employees who have been referred to a specified facility  
30 during the period in which the facility is involved in a labor action.

31 (e) An employment agency shall require that any employee  
32 referred to a long-term *health* care facility be identified as a  
33 temporary staff person in the facility's daily staffing levels required  
34 to be posted in accordance with the standards set forth in Section  
35 941 of Appendix F of Public Law 106-554 (42 U.S.C. Sec.  
36 1395i-3(b)(8) and 42 U.S.C. Sec. 1395r(b)(8)).

37 ~~SEC. 4.~~

38 *SEC. 5.* Section 1812.544 of the Civil Code is amended to read:

39 1812.544. (a) Every employment agency that makes referrals  
40 of licensed nursing staff for temporary employment in a health

1 facility or certified nurse assistants for temporary employment in  
2 a long-term health care facility shall maintain a record of all  
3 advertisements, showing the date of publication and the publication  
4 in which the advertisement appeared, for a period of one year from  
5 the date of the advertisement.

6 (b) No employment agency that makes referrals for employment  
7 to a health facility shall, by its name, advertisement, or any other  
8 representation, represent itself to be a home health agency, as  
9 defined by subdivision (a) of Section 1727 of the Health and Safety  
10 Code, or to perform the services of a home health agency. The  
11 employment agency shall provide a written disclosure to each  
12 employer stating that it does not perform the services of a home  
13 health agency and clearly describing that it is an employment  
14 agency only.

15 (c) Any facility or individual may refer complaints concerning  
16 employment agencies which place licensed nursing staff in health  
17 facilities or certified nurse assistants in long-term health care  
18 facilities to the appropriate licensing, certification, ombudsman,  
19 adult protective services, or proper law enforcement agency for  
20 action.

21 ~~SEC. 5.~~

22 *SEC. 6.* Section 1812.545 is added to the Civil Code, to read:

23 ~~1812.545. (a) An employment agency that refers licensed~~  
24 ~~nursing staff for temporary employment in a health facility shall~~  
25 ~~be certified or accredited by the Joint Commission or an accrediting~~  
26 ~~body recognized by the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid~~  
27 ~~Services.~~

28 ~~(b)~~

29 *1812.545. (a)* An employment agency that refers licensed  
30 nursing staff for temporary employment in a health facility shall  
31 have the same duty to report the suspension or termination for  
32 cause of any licensed vocational nurse or licensed psychiatric  
33 technician as an employer pursuant to subdivision (b) of Section  
34 2878.1 or subdivision (b) of Section 4521.2, respectively, of the  
35 Business and Professions Code.

36 ~~(e)~~

37 *(b)* A health facility that receives referrals of licensed nursing  
38 staff or certified nurse assistants from an employment agency *and*  
39 that sends back to the agency a licensed ~~nurse~~ *nursing* staff person  
40 or certified nurse assistant, or refuses placement from the agency

1 of a licensed—~~nurse nursing staff person~~ or a certified nurse  
2 assistant, shall inform the agency of its reasons for doing so and  
3 of any action that may constitute grounds for reporting pursuant  
4 to subdivision (b).

5 *SEC. 7. Section 1812.546 is added to the Civil Code, to read:*

6 *1812.546. (a) In addition to the remedies for violations of this*  
7 *title provided in Section 1812.523, any person that violates any*  
8 *provision of this chapter shall be subject to a civil penalty of up*  
9 *to five thousand dollars (\$5,000) for each violation, and of up to*  
10 *ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) for each willful or knowing*  
11 *violation.*

12 *(b) These civil penalties may be assessed and recovered through*  
13 *a civil action brought in the name of the people of the State of*  
14 *California by the Attorney General, by any district attorney, or*  
15 *any city attorney.*

16 *(c) Any civil penalties recovered pursuant to this section shall*  
17 *be deposited in the State Treasury, with respect to an action*  
18 *brought by the Attorney General, in the treasury for the county,*  
19 *with respect to an action brought by a district attorney, or the city*  
20 *treasury with respect to an action brought by a city attorney.*

21 *(d) The sanctions authorized under this section shall be separate*  
22 *from, and in addition to, all other remedies, either civil,*  
23 *administrative, or criminal, provided by law.*

24 ~~SEC. 5.~~

25 *SEC. 8. No reimbursement is required by this act pursuant to*  
26 *Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution because*  
27 *the only costs that may be incurred by a local agency or school*  
28 *district will be incurred because this act creates a new crime or*  
29 *infraction, eliminates a crime or infraction, or changes the penalty*  
30 *for a crime or infraction, within the meaning of Section 17556 of*  
31 *the Government Code, or changes the definition of a crime within*  
32 *the meaning of Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California*  
33 *Constitution.*

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36 **CORRECTIONS:**

37 **Text—Page 4.**

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